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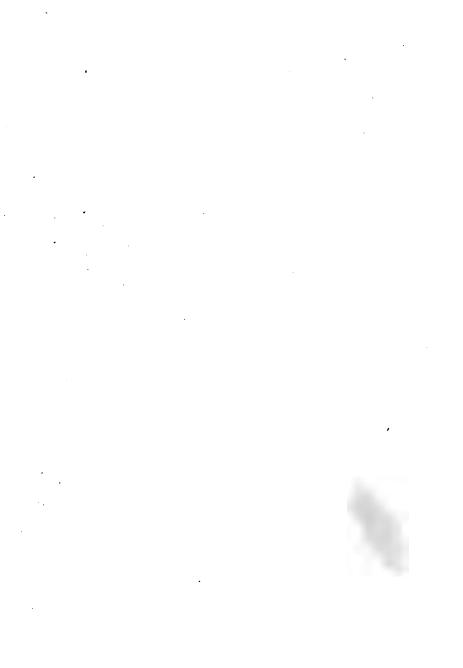
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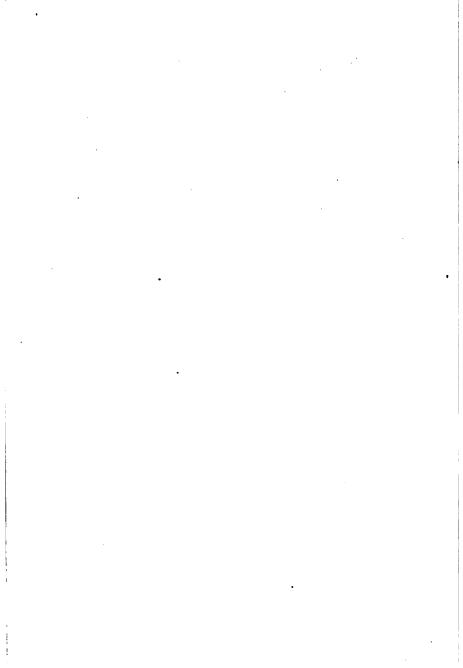
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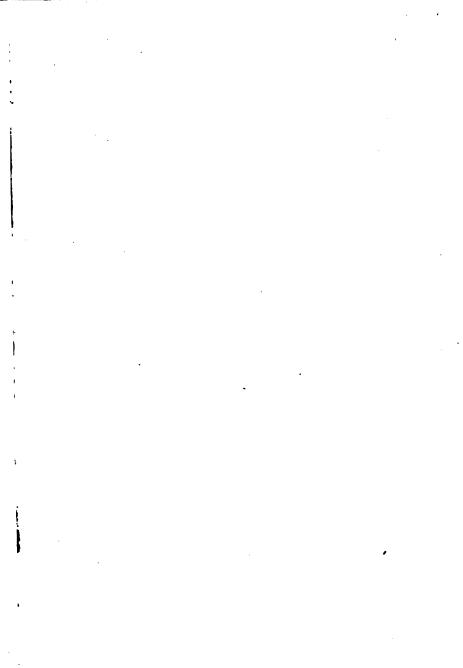
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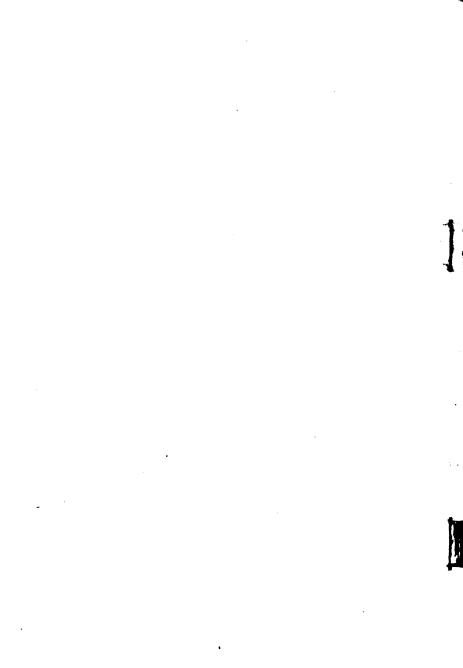


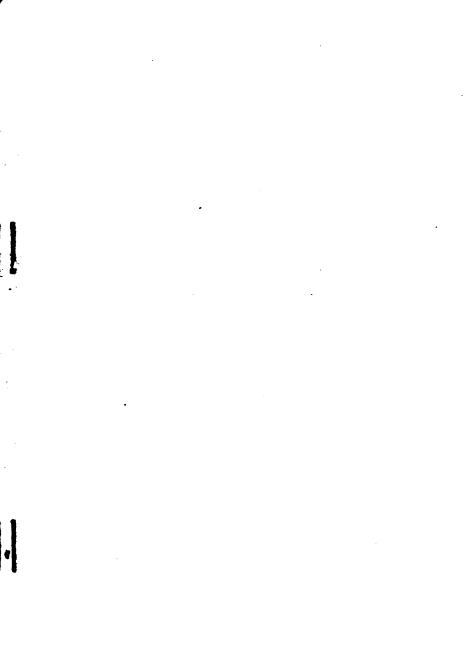


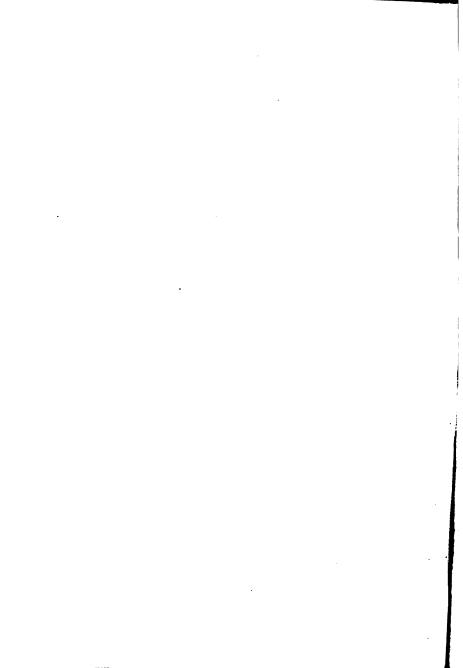


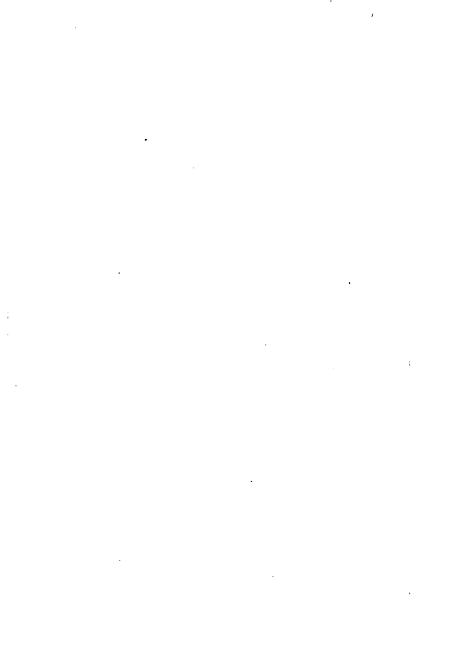




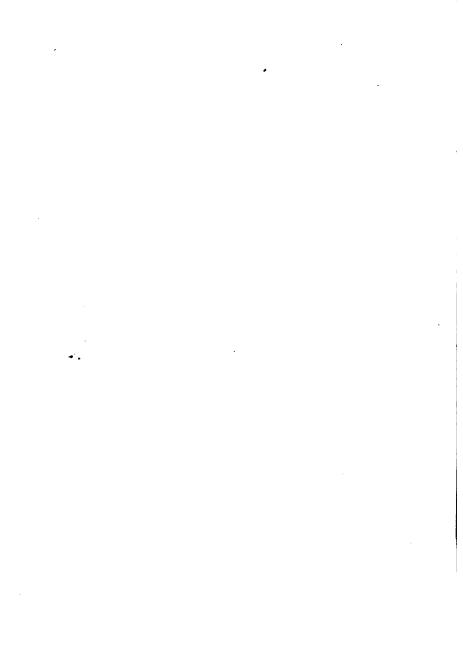








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A

Practical Method for taking a Balance Sheet at any time, without Inventory



BY

JOSEPH L. NUQUE



THE BANCROFT COMPANY, PRINTERS SAN FRANCISCO, CALIFORNIA
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*INTRODUCTION *

Accuracy and simplicity are the axis the business-transacting world moves on. An accurate knowledge of the true state of a business-house shows what is necessary to be done in order to either improve the affairs or as a timely warning to avert bankruptcy, or at least its greater evils. That knowledge ought to be at all times within reach; for time is an important factor; hence the imperious necessity for an efficient process to bring to the merchant's mind his resources, liabilities, losses and gains, as often as business may require it.

The present systems used in business-houses prove by no means equal to the emergency; the old inventory system being on financial and laborious considerations decidedly impracticable at short intervals. The appalling frequency of unnecessary failures loudly calls for a method which, answering as well the purpose of the inventory, should be relieved of the costly and troublesome accidents attached to the latter. The truth of these remarks might be graphically illustrated by the recent and surprising failure of a well known, large firm of this city, whose resources were more than twice the amount of their liabilities, but being, at the time, actually out of currency, could not meet a bill due from a bank, and thus were compelled by the latter to make an assignment. The firm alluded to was worth ten, perhaps twelve times the amount which caused the failure; but being unable to show their resources and liabilities. or to use the proper term, a balance sheet, they were unmercifully forced to the worst. Had they been practicing our Stock

System, and thus enabled to have a balance sheet at any given time, the bank, beyond a doubt, would not have entertained any fear, and gladly would have granted even a new loan.

Law provides checks and guards for banking institutions, in order to prevent failures which involve the fortunes of many; it should equally provide some regulations to the effect that all business houses liable to an eventual bankruptcy should have a balance sheet at least monthly, even if in some instances it should prove to be only for the proprietor's own benefit; but at all events averting as far as wise measures could be of any avail, that ruption of business equilibrium and its disastrous consequences, occasionally fatal, and produced by either fraudulent or honest failures.

That our Stock System is practically a signal success, is irrefutably demonstrated by the firms which are using it. Facts are more eloquent than theories; and the simple, practical rules set forth in this system are a legitimate consequence of the former.

Whatever the nature, magnitude or uncommon character of a business-house may be, avails naught; as long as the traditional practice of buying and selling is the aim of the merchant, our Stock System will find its way in displacing inventory, conquering prejudice, and to the full satisfaction of the proprietor, his step then being firm in the clear business path.

Convenient adaptations in order to answer the necessities of place, condition or circumstances of business are, of course, left to the judicious discretion of the merchant; but the concise and practical method by which a business-man is always able, without inventory, to ascertain the true state of his business, or as it is called in the market, "to take a balance sheet," is as follows:



GENERAL PRINCIPLES

DISPOSITION OF MERCHANDISE

Goods coming into the possession of the firm are put into a separate place called General Stock; this is charged with all merchandise received and at the price paid for by the firm. Some stores are divided into classified departments, as jewelry department, fancy stationery, etc., and these call on General Stock for their supply, which proceedings credit the latter and debit the x department respectively. But whatever the arrangements of the house may be, the principle of keeping an independent department for General Stock must remain always unaltered.

BOOKS

The books necessarily required to operate this system are a General Stock book, ruled similar to a plain cash book, and one alphabetical Goods Register, though convenience sometimes suggests for each department to keep a memorandum of goods bought (from General Stock) and sales, which addition strengthens the system against errors, and contributes toward the surprising fact that a merchant knows or is able to know, always, how many yards, pounds or pieces he has of all articles in which he deals.

STOCK CLERK'S DUTIES

The stock clerk should keep an accurate record of merchandise taken in, and sales; keep a careful watch on what will be next needed, and note the same on his Goods Register; have all articles stored into lots, and in readiness for any peremptory demand from the departments; render monthly to the bookkeeper a neat and accurate statement as the final result of his labors, and be responsible for all merchandise under his immediate charge.

BASIS FOR ACCURACY

Through experience a business-man can always draw an average line of percentage, at which profit his goods are sold, and this being the basis exactness depends upon, the nearness to the truth the greater accuracy will be accomplished.

This percentage is charged to the different departments on goods *sold* (nominally) to them by General Stock; but it is not necessarily a rule to charge it as *sales* are made, for in some instances it has been to great advantage to do it the last of the month, and just prior to balance-sheet taking.

RULES TO ASCERTAIN THE WORTH OF STOCK

The debit side of the stock book represents merchandise bought, credit side sales made to the departments; consequently the debit less the credit, minus percentage on sales, is the net general stock on hand. The bookkeeper arriving at such figures as

the result of the above proceedings lead to, will subtract real sales from nominal sales, and this result, minus its percentage, will be net department stock, which, added to net general stock, is all net stock on haud. If the firm possesses real estate, store fixtures, etc., once being all properly valued, the fluctuation in price can be easily ascertained according to actual estimates on the market at the time.

In case of a wholesale and retail business-house, care should be taken by the stock clerk to keep a separate account for each department.

RULES TO FIND GAINS AND LOSSES

Subtract from net department stock, plus real sales, the amount of net nominal sales; the difference will show as total merchandise gains. Total gains, minus total losses, will bring forth net gains. If these terms have to be inverted, the result will show the los es sustained by the firm.



ILLUSTRATION

Messrs. Madison & Monroe of NewYork, fancy goods, notions, book and stationery dealers, have been doing an apparently successful business for the last two years, but were greatly annoyed at the fact that whenever they wanted to know how they *stood* in their business, had to undergo the troublesome inventory. The practical idea of the Stock System being suggested to them, they resolved to go once more *only* over their entire stock, and after having a balance sheet, adopted a practice which would enable them, without further inventories, and at any time, to ascertain accurately their Resources, Liabilities, Losses and Gains.

From the last inventory are taken in total sums, goods valued at prices paid for, the following figures which are the footings of said inventory:

| Net | General Stock | \$2,681,347 | 61 |
|-----|------------------|-------------|----|
| | Department Stock | 1,853,485 | 27 |

All Net Stock.....\$4,534,832 88

Therefore the stock clerk charged stock with \$4,534,832.88, and credited with \$1,853,485.27 (as sales) plus \$440,202.75, 23¾ average percentage given by the experienced managers of the firm, and thus aggregating \$2,293,688.02. Then he brought out his alphabetical goods register and properly shaped his articles so as to be ready for any order from the departments.

We see by the foregoing that stock was debited for \$4,534,832.88 and credited for \$2,293,688.02. During the following month's business stock was charged with \$798,107.79 worth of goods bought at different times by the firm, and credited for \$1,185,667.39 worth of goods sold to the different departments (percentage included).

The footings of the stock book at the last day of the month showed:

Debit, \$5,332,940.67. Credit, \$3,479,355.41. Subtracting \$826,346.90 (percentage) from the credit side footing resulted \$2,653,008.51, as net nominal sales, and which subtracted from the debit footing gave \$2,679,932.16 as the net general stock on hand.

The real sales (cash and credit) made during that month were \$462,805.39 which subtracted from \$3,479,355.41 (nominal sales) resulted \$3,016,550.02; and this amount minus \$716,430.62 (its percentage) gave \$2,300,119.40 as net department stock.

And net department stock plus real sales aggregated \$2,762,-924.79, and this amount minus \$2,653,008.51 (net nominal sales) gave \$109,916.28 as total gains in that month.

Salaries, gas bill, insurance, etc., etc., amounted (as shown by the Ledger) to \$34,987.20, which being the total losses and subtracted from total gains they had \$74,929.08 as their net gains.

The following is the summary taken from the balance sheet, profits shared equally by both partners:

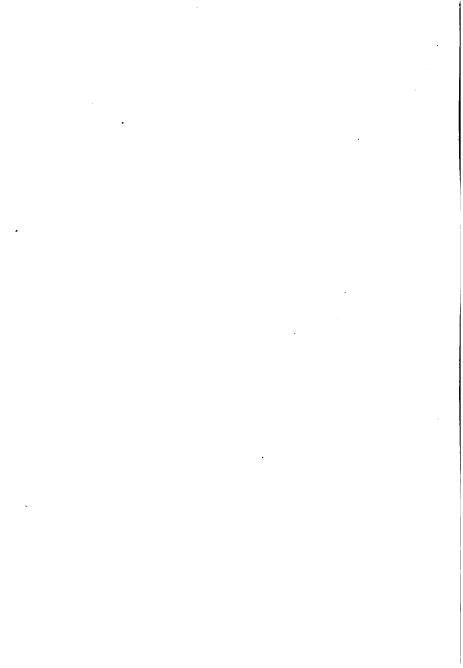
SUMMARY, 31, 18.

| | _ | = | | | | 1 |
|--|--------------|----|--|-----------------|------------------|----|
| Total Gains | | | W. Madison's net Credit 2,683,963 93 ½ | 683,963 93 1/2 | | |
| Total Calks | 07 016,601 | _ | " Gains | 37.46454 | | |
| " Losses | 34,987 20 | _ | | I | 1000 | - |
| Net Gains | 74,929 08 | | Fresent World | | 2,721,428 47,72 | 20 |
| | | | N. Monroe's net Credit 2,6 | 2,683,963,937/2 | | |
| Total Resources | 5,742,856 95 | | e e Gains | 37,464 54 | | |
| " Liabilities | 300,000 | _ | " Present Worth | | 2,721,428 47 1/2 | 70 |
| Present Worth of Firm 5.442.856 95 Present Worth of Firm | 5.442.856 95 | P. | resent Worth of Firm | | 5 449 856 95 | 1 |

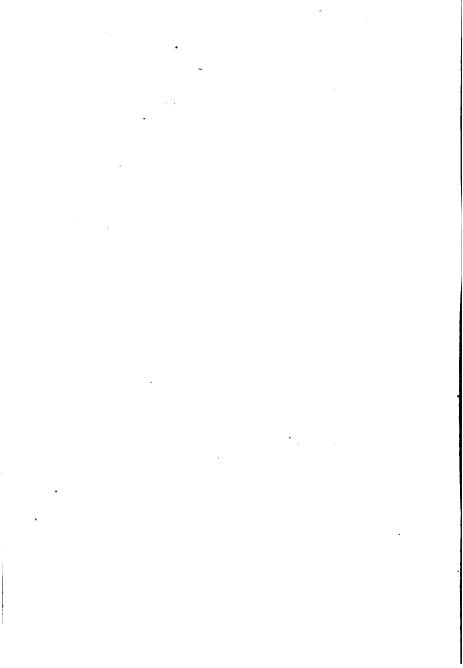
Therefore we see that by the foregoing proceedings the book-keeper was able to present a balance sheet, and the proprietors to know their resources, liabilities, losses and gains, at the lowest estimates. Next month was opened like the previous one, that is, charging General Stock with all net stock, and placing to its credit the amount of net department stock.

These simple and accurate principles are and ought to be a prominent feature in a business-house; but oddly enough, merchants prefer for long months and years a system of guessing, and finally resort to the old and painstaking inventory system to find what with a neater, more secure method in their business, and with only the expense of a clerk, a book, and a list, they can readily accomplish at any time; or, as it is customary, monthly, having then a Balance Sheet instead of the well-nigh worthless Trial Balance.









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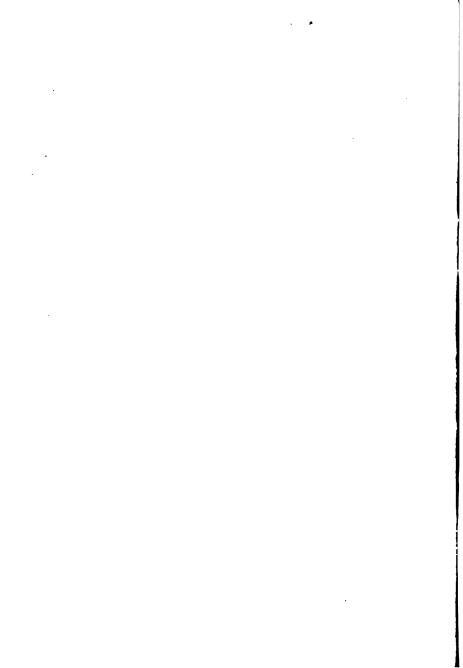
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Bur bie Banten ortnen bie Befege Aufficht und Ginidrantungen an, um Bant. rotten rorgubengen, bei welchen bas Bermogen Bieler gefabrbet wirb, es follten aber auch Berordnungen erlaffen werden um alle, e maigen Fallimenten ausgefeste Sanblungs-Säufer minbeftens zu monatlichen Bilanz-Aufftellungen anzu-halten, selbst wenn in manchen Füllen sich baraus ein Bortbeil auch nur für ben Inhaber ergabe, um aber in allen Fällen, soweit weise Maßregeln bies vermögen, die Störung bes geschäftlichen Gleichgewichts, mit ihren traurigen, oft verbängnisvollen Consequenzen abzuwenden, welche aus betrügerischen wie aus ehrlichen Lanfrotten resultirt.

Daß unfer Waaren-Spftem einen ausgezeichneten Erfolg hat wirb burch bie Säufer unbestreitbar bewiesen, welche es befolgen. Thatfachen fprechen berebter als Theorien, und bie in biefem Spftem niebergelegten einfachen, praktischen Regeln find bie fachmäßige Begründung bes erfteren.

Der Character, ber Umfang ober bie Eigenartigkeit eines Geschäfts-hauses thun nichts zur Cache; so lange seine Aufgabe in bem überlieferten Brauche besteht, zu Kausen und zu Berkaufen, wird dieses Spftem seinen Weg hinein finden, die Inventur verdrängen und Borurtheile besiegen, zur vollständigen Zufriedenstellung bes Inhabers, welcher alsbann sicheren Schrittes auf ebener Bahn zu wanteln vermag.

Bequeme Ampaffungen bezüglich ber Erforberniffe bes Plates ober ber besonberen Umitänbe und Geschäfteverhältniffe bleiben natürlich bem einsichtigen Urtheil bes Kausmanns überlaffen, bie kurzgefaßte, praktische Methobe aber, welche ben Geschäftemann seberzeit befähigt, ohne Inventur-Ausnahme, die wirkliche Geschäftelage zu ermitteln, ober, kausmannisch ausgebrückt, "Bilanz zu ziehen" handhabt sich, wie folgt:

Ullgemeine Prinzipien.

Verfügung über Waaren=Bestände.

Alle in ben Beste ber Firma gelangenben Guter werben in einen besonberen Plat aufgenommen, ben wir General-Waaren-Lager nennen; basselbe wird mit ben Gutern zu ben von ber Firma tafür gezahlten Preisen belastet. Mande Geschäfte sind in geordnete Unterabtheilungen wie Schmudwaaren, Gallantriewaaren, u s. zu zerlegen, und hängen in ihrer Ergänzung vom General-Waaren-Lager ab, welches bei Bezügen erebitirt während die Unterabtheilung correspondirend belastet wird. Wie die Einrichtung bes hause sich aber auch gestalten möge, bas Prinziv eines völlig getrennten Raumes für das General-Waaren-Lager ift uneingeschräntt sestzubalten.

fundament für Genauigkeit.

Ein Geschäftsmann kann auf Grund von Ersabrung ben Precentsat an Presit burchschnittlich bezeichnen, mit welchem seine Waaren verkauft werden, und auf bieser Basis seiner Berechnung wird die Genauigkeit in dem Berbäliniß steigen wie die der Annahme zur Wirklichkeit. Bem General-Waaren Lager wird dieser Procentsat den Unterabtheilungen bei Waaren Bezügen (nominellen Bertäusen) bebitirt, es ift aber nicht gerade Regel dies sofort zu thun, sondern dieweilen vortheilhafter es die zum Ende des Monats zu verschieben, wenn man sich anschiebt bie Bilanz zu ziehen.

Bücher.

Die zur Durchführung bieses Spftems unentbehrlichen Lücher beschränken sich auf ein General. Waaaren-Lager-Buch, abelich rubrieirt wie ein einfaches Cassa-Buch, und eine alphabetisches Waaren-Register, obgleich Bequemlichkeit noch ben Gebrauch eines Memorials in den Unterabtheilungen empsiehlt, um die Einkäuse (vom General-Waa-en-Lager) und die Bertäuse zu buchen, durch welchen Zuwachs das System an Sicherheit gegen Iribum gewinnt, und einen Kaussmann in überraschender Weise thatsächlich und jederzeit, wenn er will, in die Lage setzt genau festzustellen, wie viele Ellen, Pfunde und Stücke von allen Waaren, mit denen er handelt, vorhanden sind.

Pflichten des Cagerdieners.

Der Lagerbiener foll genau Buch führen über die eingehenden und die burch Berkauf ausgehenden Waaren, er foll auf die Bestände achten und auf die nöthig werdenden Anschaffungen, welche im Waaren-Register zu notiren sind, er foll alle Artifel so geordnet halten, daß er plößliche Orders der Unterabtheilungen sofort ausführen kann, und am Menaisichluß dem Buchhalter eine saubere und corrette Uebersicht seiner Thätigkeit einbändigen. Außerdem ist er verantwortlich für den Waaren-Bestand unter seiner Centrolle.

Regeln zur Ermittlung des Lagerwerths.

Die Debetfeite bes General-Waaren-Lager-Buchs zeigt bie Maffe ber gefauften, bie Crebitfeite bie Summe ber ben Unterabtbeilungen überlieferten Guter, Deb t weniger Crebit, abzüglich bes als Gewinn zugeschlagenen Procentiates, ergiebt

taber Netto bas General. Waaren-Lager. Ter Buckbalter braucht nur, nachtem er bie Differenz tieser Subtraction gefunden hat, die wirllichen Berläufe von den nominellen, abzüglich des Gewinn-Procentsates, abzuziehen um zum Netto-Befand der Unteradtheilungen zu gelangen, welche, zum General Waaren-Lager addirt, die Totalsumme des gesammten Waaren Bestandes Netto ergiedt. Wenn die Firma, Grundstüde, Laden inrichtungen und dergl. besit, welche bereits sachverständig abgeschäft worden sind, so lassen sich die Abweichungen von diesem Werte leicht nach Maßgade des momentanen Zustandes des Markies und der vorbergegangenen Schwankungen bemessen. Ist Großbandel mit Kleinhandel verbunden, so muß man dafür sorgen, daß die Conti beider Branchen vom Lagerbiener separat geführt werden.

Regeln zur Ermittlung von Gewinn und Verluft.

Man ziehe vom Netto Lager ber Unterabtheilungen, zuzüglich ber wirklichen Berfäufe, ben Netto-Betrag ber nominellen Berfäufe ab, und erbätt in ber Differenz ben Brutto-Gewinn an Waaren. Der Brutto-Gewinn zeigt nach Abzug bes Brutto-Berlufts ten Netto Gewinn. Muffen biefe Posten in umgekehrter Folge gebraucht werden so zeigt die Differenz ben von ber Firma erlittenen Berluft.



Praftische Erleuterung.

Die herren Mabison und Monroe in New York, hanbler in furzen Waaren, Phantasie-Artifeln und Schreibmaterialien, hatten in ben letten zwei Jahren augenscheinlich ein rentables Geschäft gemacht, bech wurden sie häusig burch ben Umftand mißgestimmt, daß sie jedesmal, wenn sie wissen wollten, wie bas Geschäft wirstlich ftand, sich zu einer mühreligen Inventur zu beguemen hatten. Als ihnen die praftische Idee des General-Baaren-L ger-Spstems vergeschlagen wurde beschoffen sie ibren Waaren-Lestand nur nech einmal, wie bisber seszustellen, nach gezogener Bilanz ober eine Praxis einzusübren, die sie in den Stand sehen würde, ohne fernereInventuren und zu jeder Zeit ibre Aftiven, Passiven, Gewinne und Berlüste zu ermitteln. Aus der letten Inventur sind für die zu Einfausepreisen angesetzen Waaren folgende, im Inventarium als Total-summen sigurirende Zablen übernommen:

| Netto General Waarenlager | | | | | \$2,681,347.61 |
|----------------------------|-----|----|--|--|----------------|
| Netto Unterabtheilungen . | | | | | \$1,853,485.27 |
| netto gefammter Waarenbeft | ani | ٠. | | | \$4,534,832,88 |

Der Lagerbiener hat baber bas General Waarenlager mit \$4,534,832 88 zu belasten und ihm an (nominellen) Berfäufen \$1,853,485.27 gutzuschreiben, zuzuglich von \$440,202.75 Profit nämlich 23°4 Procent nach Angabe bes erfabrenen Geschäfteführers, im Ganzen also \$2,293,688.02. Temnächt nimmt er sein alphabetisches Waaren-Register zur hard und ordnet dies und seine Waaren so, baß er jeder Order der Unterabtbeilungen sofort Folge geben fann.

Wie wir seben, ift also bas General-Waarenlager mit \$4,534,832.88 bebitint und mit \$2,293,688.02 crebitirt. Im Geschäfteverlauf bes solgenden Monats wurde bas General-Waarenlager mit \$798,107.79 für zu verschiedenen Zeiten gekauste Waare belastet und mit \$1,185,667.39 für Güter ereditirt, die an die Unterabiheilungen (inclusive Procentsat an Gewinn) als (nominell) verkauft gelangten.

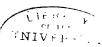
Am letten Tage bes Monats zeigen bie Summirungen: Debet \$5,332,940 67 Crebit \$3,479,355.41. Inbem wir von ber Crebit-Summe \$826,346.90 als Procentsat an Gewinn abziehen, ergeben sich als Netto Nominal-Verfäufe \$2,653,008.51, welche, abgezogen von ber Debet-Summe \$2,679,932.16 als Netto bes General-Waaren Lager läßt.

Die wirtlichen Bertaufe (per Caffa und auf Zeit) beliefen fich im Monat auf \$462,805.39, welche, fubtrabirt ven ben nominellen Bertaufen im Betrage ven \$3,479,355.41, als Differenz \$3,016,550.02 übrig laffen, und biefe Summe, abzüglich von \$716,430.62. (Procentsat an Profit), ift ber Netto-Bestand ber Unterabibeilungen mit \$2,300,119.40.

Der Actto Bestand ber Unterabtheilungen macht mit ben wirklichen Berkaufen \$2,762,924.79 aus, und dieser Betrag bezissert nach Abzug von \$2,653,008.51 (Retto ber Nominal Berkause) mit \$109,916.28, den Brutto-Gewinn dieses Monats.

Labenmicthe, Gehälter, Beleuchtungskoften, Berficherung u. f. w. betragen ausweislich ter Bucher \$34,987.20, welcher Betrag als Brutto-Berluft vom erzielten Brutto-Gewinn abgezogen, \$74,929.08 als Netto-Gewinn ber Firma übrig läßt.

Die folgende Ausstellung ist aus dem Bisanz Bozen gezogen, an den Prositen haben beibe Partner gleichen Antheil.

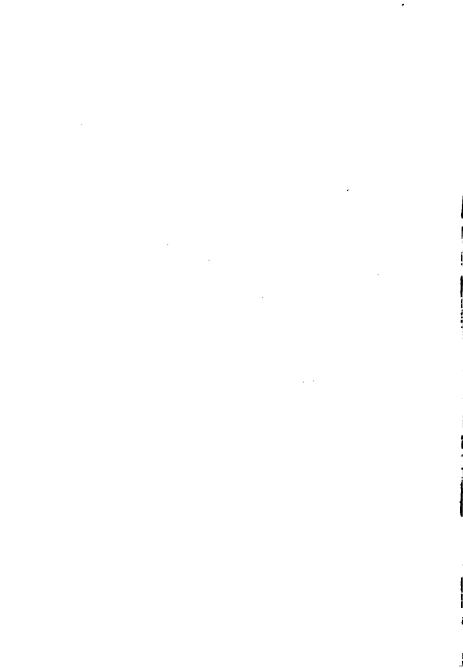


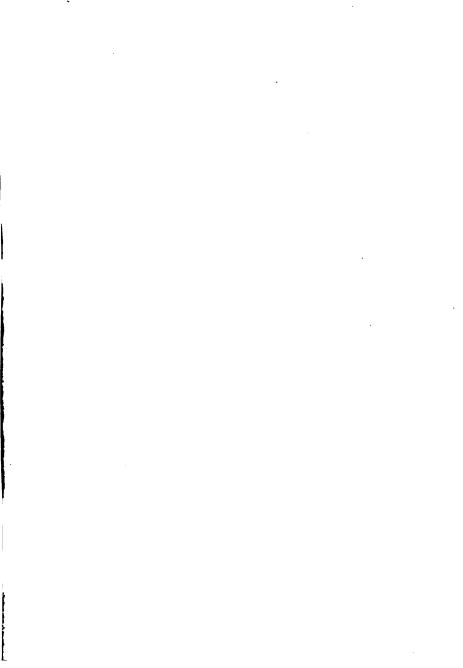
Wir schen also, bağ bas obige Berfahren ben Buchhalter in ben Stand seinen Bilanzbogen aufzustellen und bie Geschäfts-Inhaber in die Lage bringt ihre Aftiven und Possiven, sowie Gewinn und Berluft bei niedrigster Abschähung genau kennen zu lernen. Der folgende Monat wird wie ber vorhergegangene eröffnet, nämlich mit ber Belastung bes General-Waaren-Lagers um den gesammten Waaren-Bestand Netto und indem ihm der Netto-Bestand ber Unterabtbeilungen ereditirt wird.

Diese einsachen und zuverläßigen Prinzipien sind, ober follten boch ein Charafterzug jedes handlungs-hauses fein, seltsamer weise jedoch bevorzugen Raufleute Monate und felbst Jahre lang ein nur auf Bermuthung begründetes Berfabren und geeif nichließlich zu ber veralteten und muhfamen Inventur, um in ibren Geschäften bas zu ermitteln, was eine reinlichere und sicherere Methebe mit ben geringen Untosten für einen Sandlungsbiener, ein Buch und ein Register zu irgend einer Zeit ober, wie üblich, monatlich nachweist, und zwar als wirkliche anstatt ber fast wertblosen Probe- Bilatz.

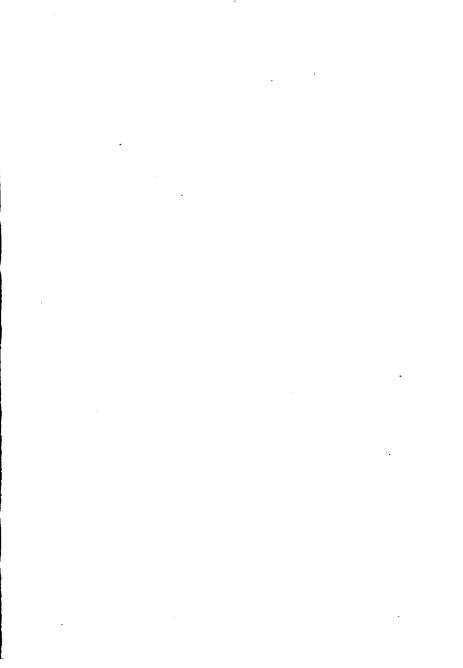








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SISTEMA-INVENTARIO

Reglas Practicas para hacer Balance General en todo tiempo, sin necesidad de Inventario

POR

JOSE LUIS DUQUE



LA COMPAÑIA BANCROFT, IMPRESORES

ван разносько, самировния

1888

Es propiedad de José Luis Duque

INTRODUCCION

Exactitud y brevedad son los puntos sobre los cuales gira el

mundo mercantil,

El conocimiento exacto del verdadero estado de un negocio expone aquello que es necesario para mejorar su marcha, para evitar una bancarrota, ó sus mayores daños. Pero ese conocimiento exacto debe estar siempre al alcance del propietario, porque el tiempo es un factor importante; y de aqui la imperiosa necesidad de un proceso eficiente y que evidencie á los ojos del comerciante sus recursos, deudas, pérdidas y ganancias, y con la frecuencia necesaria al buen curso del comercio.

Los sistemas que aún rigen en la mayoría de las casas de comercio no prueban, en manera alguna, estar á la altura de la necesidad; el viejo sistema de inventario siendo bajo los aspectos laborioso y financiero, decididamente impracticable á breves intervalos.

La asombrosa frecuencia de quiebras especialmente innecesarias, enérgicamente hablan en favor de un método que, llenando propiamente el objeto del inventario, se halle libre de los costosos y molestos accidentes de éste.

La verdad de estas consideraciones puede ser gráficamente ilustrada con la reciente é inesperada quiebra de una casa de comercio bien conocida en este pais; quienes tenian por activo una cantidad mas que doble de aquella de su pasivo, pero que debido á ciertas compras, se hallaban entónces sin los suficientes fondos en caja para cubrir un pagaré vencido á favor de un

banco de esta ciudad; y así, fueron compelidos por este último á presentarse en una desastrosa quiebra. Dicha casa tenia diez, tal vez doce veces la suma causante de la quiebra, pero siéndoles imposible manifestar en tiempo y á la satisfaccion del banco, sus recursos y deudas, ó por mejor decir, un Balance General, fueron despiadadamente forzados á lo peor. Si la casa aludida hubiera estado practicando el Sistema-Inventario, y así capaz de hacer balance general en un momento dado, el banco, incuestionablemente, no habria abrigado recelo alguno, y gustoso hubiera asentido no solo á una próroga sino tambien á un nuevo empréstito.

Asi como las leyes proveen convenietemente para evitar que los bancos quiebren y arrastren consigo las fortunas grandes y pequeñas de sus confiados favorecedores, asi tambien deberian proveer con reglamentos al efecto de que, toda casa de comercio capaz de una quiebra eventual, haga, á lo ménos mensualmente, un balance general, no obstante que en casos escepcionales probara ser solamente en beneficio del propietario; pero de todas maneras, evitando tanto como sea posible y por medio de sábias disposiciones, ese rompimiento del equilibrio mercantil, algunas veces de fatales consecuencias, y que solo reconoce por causa única las quiebras, tanto honradas como fraudulentas.

Que el Sistema-Inventario es un gran beneficio de hecho, irrefutablemente lo demuestran las casas de comercio, grandes y pequeñas, que actualmente lo practican. Los hechos son mas elocuentes que las teorias; y las reglas, simples y prácticas emitidas en este sistema, son una legítima consecuencia de los primeros.

No importa cual sea la magnitud, naturaleza ó carácter del negocio, mientras la práctica tradicional de la compra y venta sea el objeto que el comerciante se propone, el Sistema-Inventario fácilmente encontrará su propia aplicacion, desalojando al viejo y molesto inventario, conquistando prejuicios y, sobre todo, á la entera satisfaccion del propietario; entónces siendo su paso firme y seguro en la honrada via del comercio.

Modificaciones convenientes que respondan á las necesidades de lugar, condicion ó circunstancias del negocio, se dejan, como es natural, á la juiciosa discrecion del comerciante; pero el método práctico y conciso por el cual un cuidadoso hombre de negocios es siempre capaz de determinar exactamente, sin hacer inventario, el verdadero estado de su negocio, ó segun el término de plaza, "de hacer balance general," es como á continuacion se expone:







PRINCIPIOS

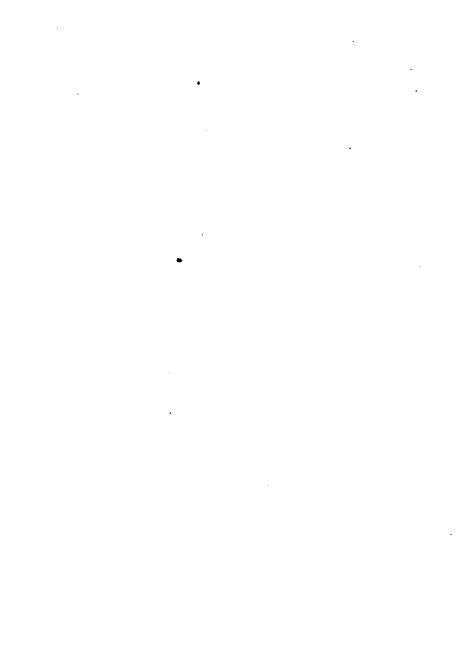
DISPOSICION DE LAS MERCANCIAS

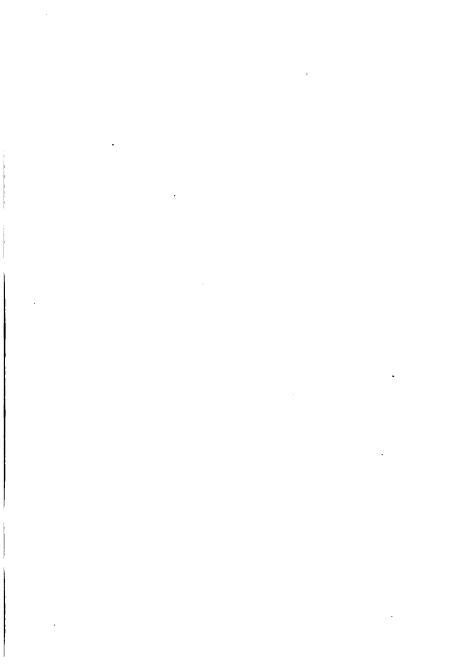
Los efectos adquiridos por una casa de comercio son puestos en un lugar separado que se llama Existencia General. Esta es adeudada con toda mercancia recibida y al precio pagado por la casa. Algunas tiendas están divididas en departamentos clasificados como Departamento por Menor, Departamento de Frutas Conservadas, etc., y éstos ocurren con Existencia General para ser convenientemente surtidos; cuyo procedimiento acredita ésta y adeuda al correspondiente departamento. Pero cualquiera que sea la disposicion de los efectos en una casa de comercio, el principio de guardar estrictamente separado un departamento para Existencia General, debe permanecer siempre inalterable.

BASE DE LA EXACTITUD

Al traves de una estudiada experiencia todo comerciante puede, sin dificultad alguna, trazar una línea, justo término medio y que represente las utilidades al tanto por ciento en el precio á que vende sns artículos: siendo este el principio sobre que descansa la veracidad del sistema, mientras mas se aproxime á la verdad mayor será la exactitud obtenida.

Ese tanto por ciento se carga á los diferentes departamentos en las mercancias compradas (nominalmente) por ellos de la Existencia General; pero no es necesariamente una regla que se cargue conforme dichas ventas se hacen, pues en algunos casos ha probado ser de mucha ventaja el hacerlo el último del mes, préviamente al Balance General.





ILUSTRACION

Los Señores Madison & Monroe, de Nueva York, comerciantes por menor en artículos de mercería, juguetes, libros y papelería, han estado obteniendo, aparentemente, un buen éxito; pero les molestaba infinito el simple hecho de que, siempre que deseaban determinar exactamente el estado de su negocio, estaban obligados á recurrir al molesto y dificultoso inventario; pero una vez habiéndoles sido sugerida la idea del Sistema-Inventario, resolvieron hacer un minucioso avaluo de todos sus efectos, por última vez; y despues de haber hecho balance general, pusieron en debida práctica el sistema que, sin tener mas necesidad de inventarios, les facilitara correctamente obtener en todo tiempo, el conocimiento exacto de su activo, pasivo, pérdida y ganancia.

Del último inventario son tomadas las sumas totales que á continuacion siguen; mercancias valuadas á precio de costo á la casa:

| Activo General Neto | \$2,681,347 | 61 |
|-----------------------------|--------------------|----|
| Activo Neto de Departamento | 1,853,485 | 27 |
| Activo Total Neto | K 1.531.832 | 88 |

Asi es que el dependiente cargó á Existencia General la suma de \$4,534,832.83, y la acreditó con \$1,853,485.27 (como ventas) más \$440,202.75 como su valor correspondiente, computando al 23¾ por ciento, que fué el tanto por ciento decidido por los gerentes de la casa; y asi sumando en todo el crédito, \$2,293,-688,02. Despues registró en su correspondiente órden en el Registro de Mercancias, todos los artículos en su departamento,

y los dispuso convenientemente á la mano, para estar listo á cualquier pedido por los departamentos.

Vemos pues, por lo expuesto, que Existencia General fué adeudada por \$4,534,832.88, y acreditada con la suma de \$2,-293,688.02. Ahora, durante aquel mes Existencia General fué cargada con \$798,107.79, valor, al costo, de mercancias compradas (á crédito y al contado), y fué acreditada con \$1,185,-667.39 valor de efectos vendidos á los departamentos (el 23¾ por ciento incluido.)

Las sumas totales del libro de Existencia General, el último del mes, fueron:

Débito, \$5,332,940.67. Crédito, \$3,479,355.41. Ahora, habiendo sustraido \$826,346.90 (23¾ por ciento) de la suma total del crédito, dió por resultado \$2,653,008.51 como Ventas Nominales Netas, y éstas sustraidas de la suma total del débito, resultó \$2,679,932.16 como Activo General Neto en la tienda.

Las ventas (al contado y crédito) hechas durante aquel mes fueron \$462,805.39; cuya cantidad sustraida de \$3,479.355.41 (Ventas Nominales) resultó \$3,016,550.02; y esta cantidad ménos \$716,430.62 (su 23¾ por ciento) dió por resultado \$2,300,-119.40 como Activo Neto de Departamento.

Activo Neto de Departamento más las ventas, fué igual á \$2,762,924.79; cuya suma ménos \$2,653,008.51 (Ventas Nominales Netas) dió por resultado \$109,916.28, como Ganancias Totales del mes.

Renta de la tienda, cuenta del gas, sueldos de los dependientes, cuenta de aseguros, etc., etc., sumaron (segun el libro mayor) \$34,987.20; cuya suma representando las Pérdidas Totales y sustraida de Ganancias Totales, finalmente se obtuvo \$74,929,08, diferencia representante de las Ganancias Netas, y que fueron las utilidades del mes.

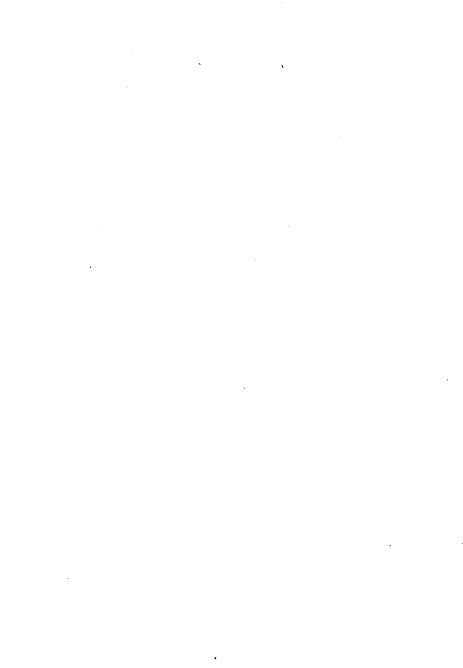
| El sumario que a utilidades divididas _l | s continuacio por iguales pa | El sumario que á continuacion se inserta, fué tomado utilidades divididas por iguales partes entre ambos sócios. | El sumario que á continuacion se inserta, fué tomado del Balance General; las lidades divididas por iguales partes entre ambos sócios. | as |
|---|---------------------------------|--|--|--------|
| SUMARIO de | 310 de. | | 31, de 18 | |
| Ganancias Totales | 109,916 28 | Crédito neto de W. Madison | 2,683,963,93% | |
| Pérdidas " Ganancias Netas | 34,987 20 74.929 08 | Valor actual " " | 2,721,428,4715 | 7.7% |
| | | Crédito neto de N. Monroe | 2,683,963 93 1/2 | |
| Activo Total | 5,742,856 95 | Ganancias netas " | 37,464 54 | |
| Pasivo " | 300,000 | Valor actual " | 2,721,428 47 1/2 | 17 1/2 |
| Valor actual de la Casa | 18 | 5,442 856 95 Valor actual de la Casa | 5,442.856 95 | ည |
| | | | - 1 | |

Por los procedimientos expuestos vemos que, el tenedor de libros de la casa Madison & Monroe pudo, en virtud del nuevo sistema, extender su Balance General, y los propietarios supieron cuales eran sus Activos, Pasivos, Pérdidas y Ganancias, y al mas bajo avaluo.

El siguiente mes fué abierto como el que precedió, es decir, cargando Existencia General con Activo Total Neto y dándole crédito con Activo Neto de Departamento más su correspondiente tanto por ciento.

Estos principios son, y deben ser, la sólida base de una casa de comercio é independientemente del pequeño ó grande capital que se gire; pero estraño por demás, nuestros comerciantes hasta aquí han preferido una nerviosa incertidumbre, por meses y aún años, para finalmente resolverse en la forma del viejo y penoso inventario; y ¿ para qué? para deteminar aquello que, con un sistema más limpio, más seguro, libre de accidentes dificiles, y que con el solo gasto de un dependiente, un libro y una lista, éllos pueden exactamente obtener en todo tiempo, ó como es práctica comun, mensualmente; haciendo así sus debidos Balances Generales en lugar de los inconducentes Balances de Comprobacion.



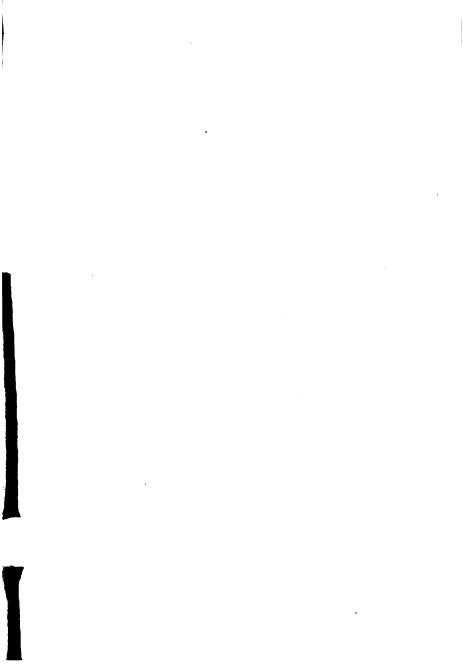


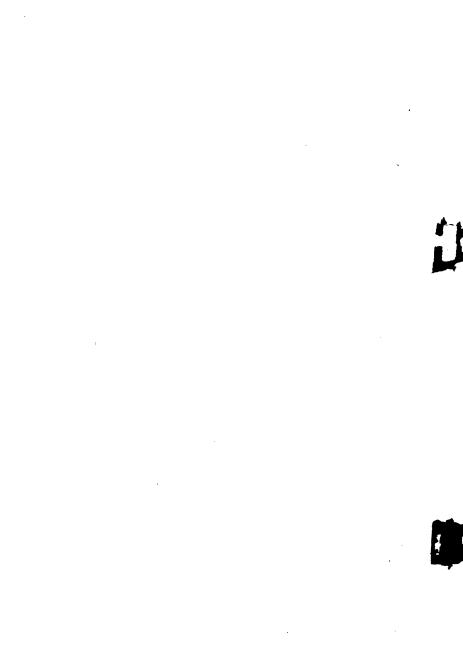
INDEX

| | Page |
|---|-----------|
| English Section | . 1 to 11 |
| German Section | .13 to 24 |
| Spanish Section | 25 to 37 |
| The Bancroft Company—advertisement Facing English T | itle Page |
| Stock System Co.—advertisement Facing German Ti | itle Page |
| "La República"—advertisement Facing Spanish Ti | itle Page |



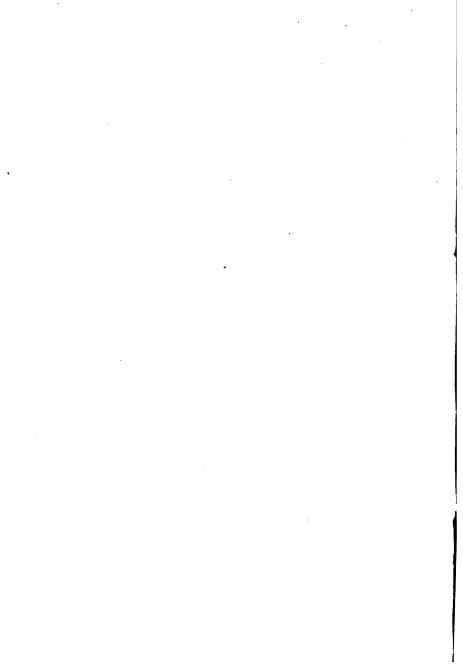
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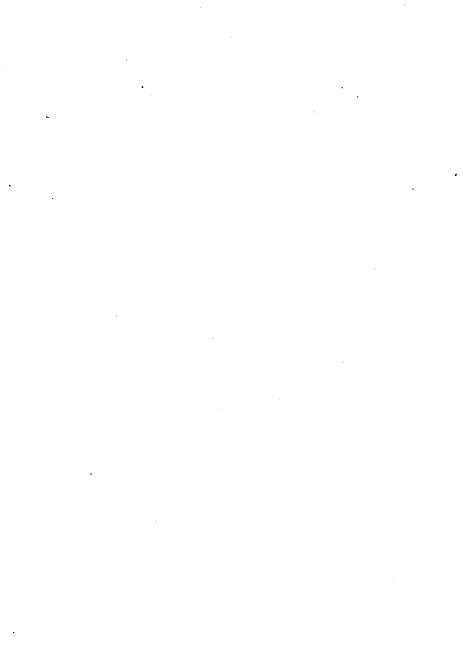




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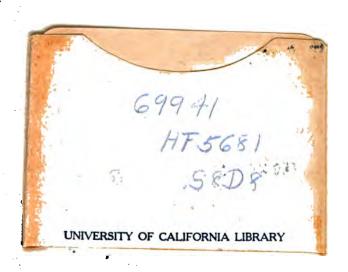
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